Paige Ballard

September 12, 2010

W400 Writing Narrative Writer’s Statement

For this piece, I tried to pick a story that defined myself as a writer and also could be easily relatable for the audience. Being that my audience is mostly college students, I thought that a narrative about criticism would resound with familiarity. I also decided to pick this instance because it was the one that happened the most recently, and the memory was still fairly fresh in my mind.

This was the first piece I had written in a long time, so I was unsure of how I would be able to make it an interesting story. Taking criticism isn’t fun, and most people know that, but I tried to make it a different experience for every reader: someone who has been in a situation like mine, someone who hasn’t, or maybe someone who has given the type of criticism I received. I tried to add as many details as I could, and I tried to focus on the piece’s theme of learning about myself as a writer as well as learning about myself as a teacher of writing.

As I received my feedback from my classmates, I began worrying that it was more of an essay than a narrative. I seemed to do a lot of “telling” in some places and not enough “showing” in others. When we did the class rubric, I found myself realizing that there were some things about my piece that needed more work to bring it from “meets expectations” to “exceeds expectations.”

Now that I’ve made the revisions to my third, and final, draft, I mostly want to know what I could’ve done to make it a more exciting story. Is the subject matter too boring? Are there details I could’ve added or left out to make it more like a narrative? Am I “telling” too much?